

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16, 18-20, and 22-36 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16, 18-20, and 22-36 are canceled; and new claims 37-50 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 37-50 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

New independent claim 37 is directed to circuitry including an electrical over stress (EOS) shunt connected between a first rail and a second rail of the circuitry. The EOS shunt comprises (1) a switchable low-resistance path connected between the first and second rails and (2) a voltage threshold detector comprising a plurality of series-connected diodes connected in series with a resistor between the first and second rails. The voltage threshold detector is coupled to turn on and off the switchable low-resistance path based on relative voltage levels of the first and second rails. The voltage threshold detector further comprises at least one switch connected to selectively bypass at least one of the series-connected diodes.

Figs. 1-3 show an exemplary embodiment of the circuitry of claim 37, where:

- o EOS shunt 107 of Figs. 1 and 2 is an example of the EOS shunt of claim 37;
- o Vdd of Figs. 1-3 is an example of the first rail of claim 37;
- o Vss of Figs. 1-3 is an example of the second rail of claim 37;
- o Current shunt 409 of Fig. 2 is an example of the switchable low-resistance path of claim 37;
- o EOS event detector and trigger 400 of Figs. 2-3 is an example of the voltage threshold detector of claim 37;
- o Diodes 371-375 of Fig. 3 form an example of the plurality of series-connected diodes of claim 37;
- o Resistor 397 of Fig. 3 is an example of the resistor of claim 37; and
- o The switches connected to diodes 371 and 372 of Fig. 3 are examples of the at least one switch of claim 37.

Support for new dependent claims 38-50 is found as follows:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Support</u>
38	Figs. 1-3
39	Page 9, lines 22-24
40	Fig. 1 and page 6, lines 12-18
41	Page 10, lines 12-21
42, 49	Fig. 3
43	Page 10, lines 25-30
44	Fig. 2
45	Fig. 4

46 Fig. 2
47, 50 Page 5, line 13
48 Claims 39-41 and 43-46

None of the cited references teaches all of the elements of new claim 37. For example, Miller discloses, in Fig. 7, a threshold trigger circuit 325 having a plurality of series-connected diodes 327 connected in series with a resistor 326 between VDD and VSS rails. Significantly, however, Miller does not teach or even suggest that threshold trigger circuit 325 further comprises at least one switch connected to selectively bypass at least one of the series-connected diodes 327.

The invention of new claim 37 provides advantages not provided or even suggested by the cited references. For example, by selectively bypassing one or more of the series-connected diodes, the EOS shunt of new claim 37 can be programmed to operate for different combinations of rail voltage levels.

For all these reasons, the Applicant submits that new claim 37 is allowable over the cited references. Since new claims 38-50 depend directly or indirectly from claim 37, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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